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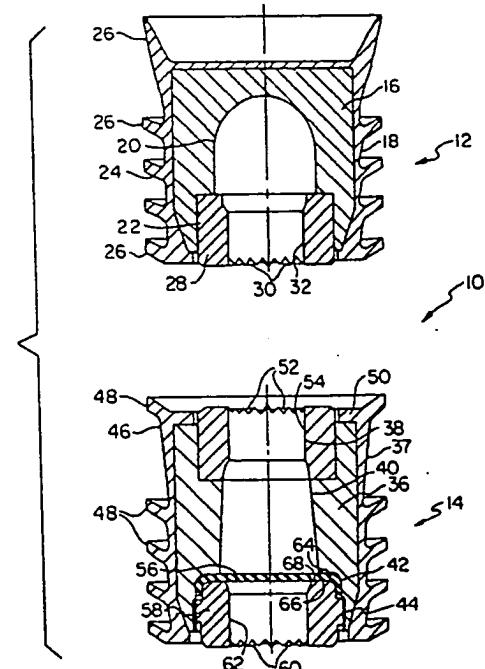
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㉚ Non-rotating plug set.

㉛ A non-rotating plug set (10) for use in cementing well bores in combination with a co-operating floating collar or the like, comprises an upper plug (12) with a toothed insert (28) and a lower plug (14) with both an upper (50) and a lower (58) toothed insert, and a diaphragm closure (56). In use, the toothed insert (28) of the upper plug keys into the upper toothed insert (50) of the lower plug to prevent relative rotation of the two plugs. Also, the lower insert (58) of plug (14) can key into a toothed insert at the upper end of the floating collar, to prevent relative rotation therebetween. The plug set and collar can be drilled out using a polycrystalline diamond drill bit.



NON-ROTATING PLUG SET

This invention is directed to an improved non-rotating plug set for use in cementing the casing in well bores.

In cementing the casing in a well bore, a plug set is used to close the bore and, after the cement has set, the plug set is drilled out to re-open the bore. In the past, the plug set and residual cement in the casing have been removed by drilling operations using tooth-type rock bits. The teeth on these rock bits have proved effective in drilling the plug set, even though the individual plugs of the set were free to rotate with respect to each other and the floating equipment.

However, with the advent of polycrystalline diamond compact (PDC) drill bits, it has been found necessary to use a non-rotating plug set during the well casing cementing process to facilitate the subsequent drilling of the plug set and residual cement. For whatever reasons, the teeth on a PDC drill bit do not drill through a conventional plug set as effectively as the previously used tooth-type rock bit. However, if a non-rotating plug set is used, the PDC drill bit can drill through the plug set, residual cement and floating equipment in time periods comparable to that needed with a conventional tooth-type rock bit.

One prior art non-rotating plug set utilizes an insert in an upper plug of the plug set which has a portion thereof engaging recesses in a portion of a lower plug.

We have now devised an improved non-rotating plug set for use in cementing the casing in well bores. The plug set of the present invention comprises an upper plug having a non-rotation insert retained therein and a lower plug having two non-rotation inserts retained therein. The present invention further includes the use of a non-rotation insert in the floating equipment with which the plug set of the present invention is used.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided an anti-rotation plug set and co-operating piece of floating equipment for use therewith in well bores, wherein the anti-rotation plug set comprises an upper plug and a lower plug, the upper plug including a body member having a cavity in the bottom thereof, an elastomeric wiper covering disposed about a portion of the body member and retained thereon, and an anti-rotation insert retained within the cavity in the bottom of the body member, the insert having a plurality of downwardly facing teeth thereon; and the bottom plug including a body member having a bore therethrough, an elastomeric wiper covering disposed about a portion of the body member and retained thereon, an upper anti-rotation insert retained within

the upper portion of the bore through the body member, the upper anti-rotation insert having a plurality of upwardly facing teeth thereon adapted to engage the downwardly facing teeth on the anti-rotation insert retained within the upper plug, a diaphragm sealing the bore through the body member, the diaphragm being located below the upper anti-rotation insert in the body member; and a lower anti-rotation insert retained within the lower portion of the bore through the body member, the lower anti-rotation insert having a plurality of downwardly facing teeth thereon; and wherein the piece of floating equipment comprises an annular housing, a float valve assembly, cementitious material retaining the float valve assembly within the annular housing; and an anti-rotation insert secured within the annular housing, the anti-rotation insert having a plurality of upwardly facing teeth thereon adapted to engage the downwardly facing teeth on the lower anti-rotation insert of the lower plug of the plug set.

In order that the invention may be more fully understood, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of plug set of the present invention; and

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a float collar, a typical piece of floating equipment, for use with the plug set of Fig. 1.

Referring to Fig. 1, the plug set 10 comprises an upper plug 12 and lower plug 14.

The upper plug 12 comprises a body member 16 having, in turn, a generally cylindrical exterior surface 18, first interior cavity 20 and second interior cavity 22, elastomeric wiper covering 24 having, in turn, a plurality of wipers 26 thereon, and annular anti-rotation insert 28 having, in turn, a plurality of teeth 30 formed on one end thereof and bore 32 therethrough. The body member 16 may be formed of any suitable, easily drillable material, such as plastic, aluminum, etc. Similarly, the anti-rotation insert 28 may be formed of any suitable, easily drillable material, such as plastic, aluminum, etc. The anti-rotation insert 28 may be retained within the second cavity 22 of the body member 16 by any suitable means, such as adhesive bonding, threaded engagement, etc. The teeth 30 may be formed on the anti-rotation insert 28 by any suitable means, such as machining, molding, etc., if the insert 28 is molded plastic, etc.

The lower plug 14 comprises a body member 36 having, in turn, a generally cylindrical exterior surface 37 and, on the interior, first bore 38, second bore 40, third bore 42 and fourth bore 44, elastomeric wiper covering 46 having, in turn, a

plurality of wipers 48 thereon, annular upper annular anti-rotation insert 50 having, in turn, a plurality of teeth 52 on one end thereof and bore 54 therethrough, elastomeric diaphragm 56 and annular bottom annular anti-rotation insert 58 having, in turn, teeth 60 on one end thereof and bore 62 therethrough.

As with the upper plug 12, the lower plug 14 may have the body member 36 and upper 50 and lower 58 anti-rotation inserts formed of any suitable material, such as plastic, aluminum, etc. Similarly, the upper 50 and lower 58 anti-rotation inserts may be retained within the first bore 38 and fourth bore 44 of the body member 36 by any suitable means, such as adhesive bonding, threaded engagement, etc. Also, the teeth 52 and 60 on the upper 50 and lower 58 anti-rotation inserts respectively, may be formed thereon by any suitable means, such as machining, molding, etc.

The elastomeric diaphragm 56 is retained within the body member 36 of the lower plug 14 by clamping the diaphragm 56 between the shoulder 64 of body member 36 having, in turn, an annular rib thereon and upper end 66 of lower anti-rotation insert 58 with an annular rib 68 on the upper end 66 biting into the diaphragm 56.

Referring to Fig. 2, a typical float collar 100 for use with the plug set 10 is shown. The float collar 100 comprises an annular housing 102, cementitious material 104, and float valve assembly 106 having anti-rotation insert member 108 thereon having, in turn, a plurality of teeth 110 thereon.

It should be noted that the configuration of the teeth 30 of anti-rotation insert 28 of upper plug 12 and the teeth 52 of upper anti-rotation insert 50 of lower plug 14 geometrically match as well as the teeth 60 of lower anti-rotation insert 58 of lower plug 14 and the teeth 110 of insert member 108 of float collar 100. It should also be appreciated that the geometry of the various teeth 30, 52, 60 and 110 is such that, when engaged, the torsional shear area is equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the cross-sectional area of the respective insert containing the teeth thereby providing greater torsional resistance to rotating.

Additionally, it should be appreciated that although a float collar 100 has been shown, any suitable piece of floating equipment, such as a float shoe assembly, may be used with the plug set 10 so long as the floating equipment includes an anti-rotation insert 108 to engage the lower anti-rotation insert 58 of the lower plug 14.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the float collar 100 is assembled into a string of casing (not shown) to be connected into a well bore by the threaded bore 112 and threaded surface 114 threadedly engaging the casing.

When it is desired to cement the string of

casing having the float collar 100 therein in the well bore, the lower plug 14 of the plug set 10 is pumped through the casing by cement until it lands on the cementitious material 104 and float valve assembly 108 of the float collar 100 with the teeth 60 of the lower anti-rotation insert 58 engaging the teeth 110 of the anti-rotation insert 108 of float collar 100. As the lower plug 14 is pumped through the casing, the outer wiper covering 46 wipes drilling fluid from the interior of the casing string.

After the lower plug 14 has landed on the float collar 100, the pressure of the cement being pumped behind the lower plug 14 is increased until the pressure ruptures the elastomeric diaphragm 56 of the lower plug 14 allowing cement to be pumped therethrough.

After the desired amount of cement has been pumped through the casing, lower plug 14 and float collar 100, the upper plug 12 is pumped through the casing having the elastomeric wiper covering 24 thereon wiping cement from the casing until the upper plug 12 lands on the lower plug 14 having the teeth 30 of the anti-rotation insert 28 of the upper plug 12 engaging the teeth 52 of upper anti-rotation insert 50 of the lower plug 14.

After a suitable waiting period for the cement to set, a drill bit is then lowered through the casing to drill out the upper plug 12, lower plug 14, cementitious material 104 and float valve assembly 106.

It will be appreciated that since the teeth 30 of anti-rotation insert 28 of upper plug 12 engage the teeth 52 of upper anti-rotation insert 50 of lower plug 14 and the teeth 60 of lower anti-rotation insert 58 of plug 14 engage teeth 110 of insert 108 of float collar 100, rotation of the plug set 10 is minimized during the drilling process thereby reducing the amount of drilling time required.

It will be appreciated also that during well cementing operations, only the upper plug 12 of the plug set 10 may be used or multiple lower plugs 14 of the plug set 10 may be used, if desired.

Claims

45. 1. In combination, an anti-rotation plug set (10) and co-operating piece of floating equipment (100) for use therewith in well bores, wherein the anti-rotation plug set comprises an upper plug (12) and a lower plug (14), the upper plug (12) including a body member (16) having a cavity (22) in the bottom thereof, an elastomeric wiper covering (24) disposed about a portion of the body member and retained thereon, and an anti-rotation insert (28) retained within the cavity (22) in the bottom of the body member, the insert having a plurality of downwardly facing teeth (30) thereon; and the bottom plug (14) including a body member (36) having

a bore (38,40,42,44) therethrough, an elastomeric wiper covering (46) disposed about a portion of the body member and retained thereon, an upper anti-rotation insert (50) retained within the upper portion of the bore through the body member, the upper anti-rotation insert having a plurality of upwardly facing teeth (52) thereon adapted to engage the downwardly facing teeth (30) on the anti-rotation insert (28) retained within the upper plug (12), a diaphragm (56) sealing the bore through the body member, the diaphragm being located below the upper anti-rotation insert (50) in the body member (36); and a lower anti-rotation insert (58) retained within the lower portion of the bore through the body member the lower anti-rotation insert (58) having a plurality of downwardly facing teeth (60) thereon; and wherein the piece of floating equipment (100) comprises an annular housing (102), a float valve assembly (106), cementitious material (104) retaining the float valve assembly within the annular housing; and an anti-rotation insert (108) secured within the annular housing, the anti-rotation insert having a plurality of upwardly facing teeth (110) thereon adapted to engage the downwardly facing teeth (60) on the lower anti-rotation insert (58) of the lower plug (14) of the plug set.

2. A combination according to claim 1, wherein the body member (16) of the upper plug (12) and the anti-rotation insert (28) therein are formed of plastic; and/or the body member (36) of the lower plug (14), and the upper (50) and lower (58) anti-rotation inserts therein are formed of plastic.

3. A combination according to claim 1, wherein the body member (16) of the upper plug (12) and the anti-rotation insert (28) therein are formed of aluminum; and/or the body member (36) of the lower plug (14), and the upper (50) and lower (58) anti-rotation inserts therein, are formed of aluminum.

4. A combination according to claim 1,2 or 3, wherein the anti-rotation insert (108) of the piece of floating equipment (100) is formed of plastic or of aluminum.

5. A combination according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the teeth (30) of the anti-rotation insert (28) of the upper plug (12) are engageable with the teeth (52) of the upper anti-rotation insert (50) of the lower plug (14), and the teeth (60) of the lower anti-rotation insert (58) are engageable with the teeth (110) of the anti-rotation insert (108) of the piece of floating equipment (100), to provide a torsional shear area of material which is equal to one hundred percent of the cross-sectional area of the respective insert containing the teeth.

6. A combination according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the anti-rotation inserts (28,50,58) of the upper (12) and lower (14) plugs are adhesively bonded to the respective plug body member

(16,36).

7. A combination according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the anti-rotation inserts (28,50,58) of the upper (12) and lower (14) plugs are threadedly engaged with the respective plug body member (16,36).

8. A method of cementing the casing in a well bore wherein there is used a combination of plug set (10) and floating equipment (100) as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, and wherein after the cement has set the combination is drilled out using a polycrystalline diamond compact bit.

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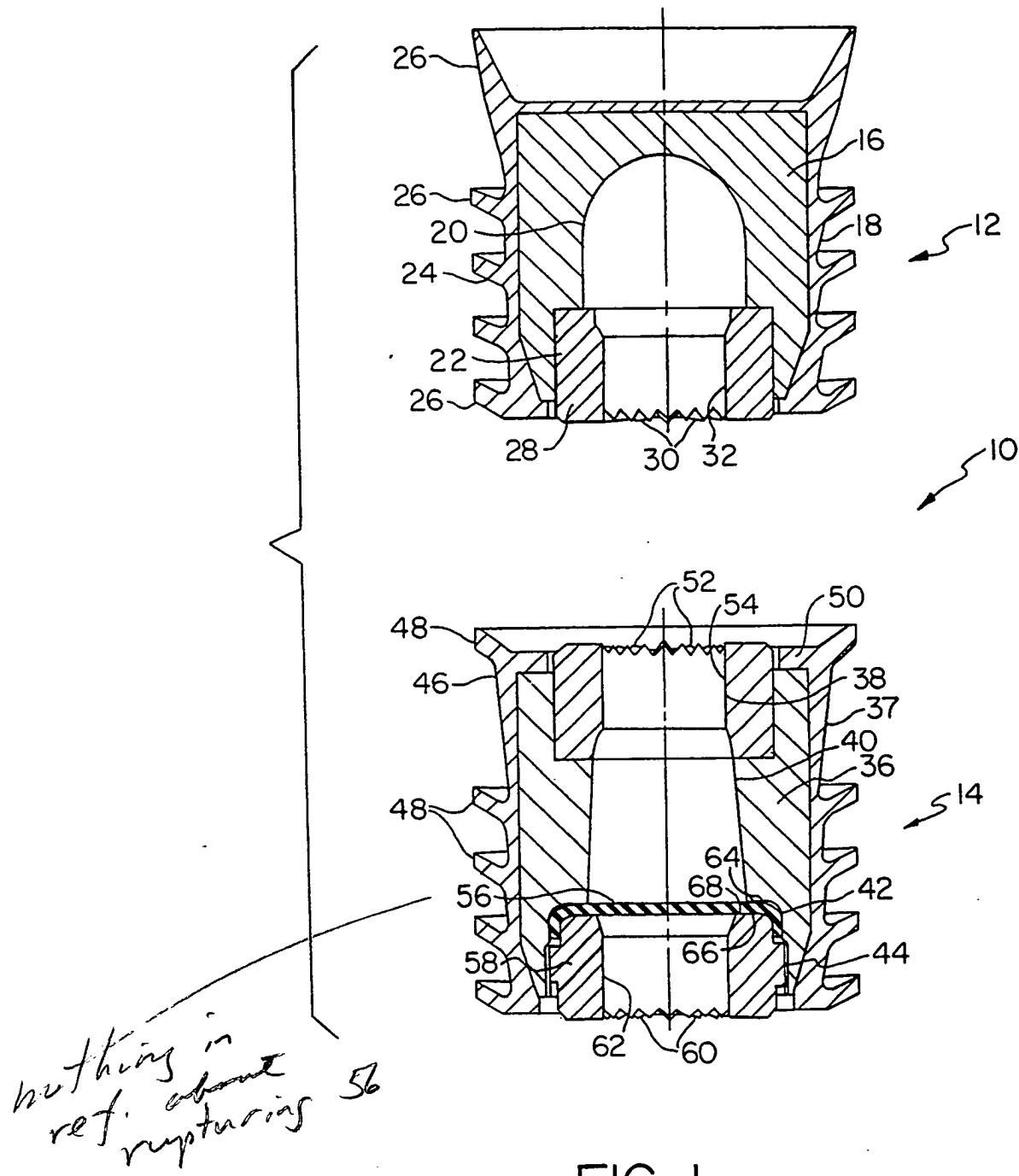


FIG. I

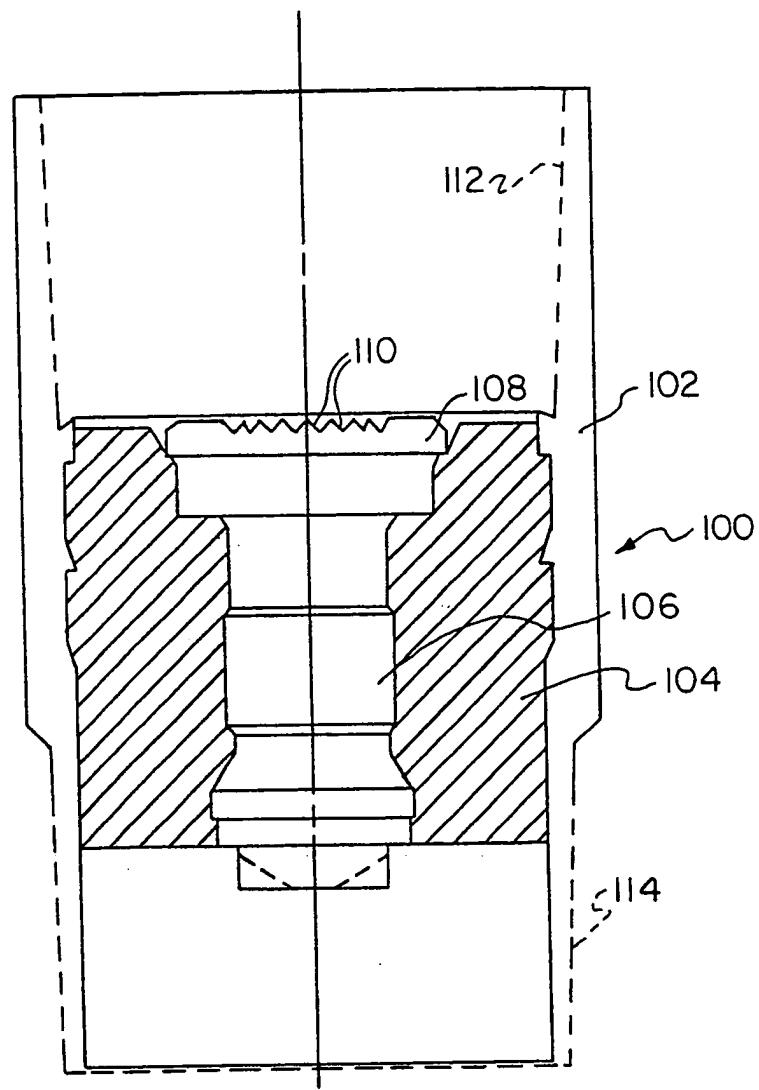


FIG.2



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT									
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 5)						
Y	US-A-4 711 300 (WARDLAW) * Column 4, lines 34-44 - column 4, lines 52-57 - column 5, lines 15-31 *	1-6,8	E 21 B 33/16 E 21 B 29/00						
Y	US-A-4 175 619 (DAVIS) * Column 4, lines 25-34 *	1-5,8							
Y	US-A-3 550 683 (COMEAUX) * Column 2, lines 19-25 - claim 5 *	6							
A	---	1-5,8							
A	US-A-4 190 112 (DAVIS) * Whole *	1-5,8							
A	US-A-4 190 111 (DAVIS) * Whole *	1-5,8							
A	US-A-2 165 433 (WICKERSHAM) * Page 1, left-hand column, lines 55-60, 3-14 *	1-5,7,8							
A	US-A-3 329 450 (CURRENT) * Column 3, lines 7-11 *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)						
	-----		E 21 B						
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>06-02-1990</td> <td>SOGNO M.G.</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	06-02-1990	SOGNO M.G.
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THE HAGUE	06-02-1990	SOGNO M.G.							
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document							
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document									